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From: Kaiser, Sven-Erik
Sent: Tue 10/3/2017 1:50:49 PM
Subject: FW: Tuesday: Udall and Blumenthal, Joined by Advocates and Chemical Exposure Victims, to Speak out Against the Dangerous Nomination of Michael Dourson to Head EPA's Toxics Office

More info on the Udall press conference this afternoon on Dr. Dourson's nomination. I'm planning to listen. Please let me know if any questions. Thanks,

Sven

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NEWS FROM THE UNITED STATES SENATE

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Tuesday: Udall and Blumenthal, Joined by Advocates and

Chemical Exposure Victims, to Speak out Against the Dangerous Nomination of Michael Dourson to Head EPA's Toxics Office

Ahead of his confirmation hearing this week, speakers will discuss Dourson's history as a hired gun for the chemical industry

Dourson's work has included generating junk science to hide the danger of second-hand cigarette smoke, the carcinogen PFOA, the pesticide chlorpyrifos, and chemicals in children's toys

WASHINGTON — On **Tuesday, Oct. 3, at 2:30 p.m.**, U.S. Senators Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) will hold a press conference in the Senate Swamp to expose the danger of confirming chemical industry propagandist Michael Dourson to lead the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) office that serves as the nation's chemical and pesticide watchdog. They will be joined by several victims of chemical exposure, as well as the CEO of a baby food company, and an expert who has exposed Dourson's work for the chemical industry and how it was used to justify looser standards for dangerous substances.

Dourson's firm Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA) has long been the go-to for corporate polluters and industry who want to downplay concerns about their products, including second-hand tobacco smoke and PFOA, the chemical in Teflon linked to cancer. Chemical companies have long hired TERA to generate research used to justify weaker public health standards. For example, Dourson's "research" helped lead to looser standards for PFOA in West Virginia's drinking water. Dourson also worked to defend the dangerous pesticide chlorpyrifos, manufactured by Dow Chemical, which has been so closely linked to brain damage in children that the American Academy of Pediatrics has warned that all children are at risk as a result of its continued use on fruits and vegetables. Earlier this year, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt reversed his own EPA scientists' recommended ban of chlorpyrifos shortly after he met with Dow's CEO.

The EPA toxics office is currently in the process of implementing the first-ever reform of the nation's chemical safety law, the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, the law intended to protect Americans from harmful substances linked to cancer, learning disabilities, infertility, Parkinson's disease and other serious health impacts. Udall, who was one of the chief architects of the law, and Blumenthal will argue that not only should Dourson never work for the agency created to protect Americans from pollution and dangerous substances, but that installing such a deeply conflicted friend of industry to lead the toxics bureau is yet another example of the Trump administration leaving the fox in charge of the henhouse in order to help industry and undermine public safety.

Speakers will include:

-Michael Hickey, of New York, whose father worked at the Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics plant where Teflon was manufactured and later died of kidney cancer. Michael is credited with discovering the PFOA contamination in Hoosick Falls.

-12-year-old Gwen Young, whose family moved to Hoosick Falls, N.Y., after the well water in their home in nearby Peterburgh was significantly contaminated with PFOA. Gwen's PFOA levels were the highest tested in the community.

-Stacie Davidson, of Indiana, whose stepson Zane has been undergoing treatment for cancer for three years now. The incidence of cancer in Johnson County is above the national average, and parents are concerned about the environmental factors, including chemicals like TCE, which may be causing these cancers.

-Shazi Visram, founder and CEO of the Happy Family organic baby food company.

-David Michaels, professor of environmental and occupational health at the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health, former assistant secretary of Labor for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (2009-2017), and former assistant secretary of Energy for Environment, Safety and Health (1998-2001).

Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2017

WHAT: Udall, Blumenthal, advocates hold press conference to oppose the nomination of Michael Dourson to head the EPA's toxics office

TIME: 2:30 p.m.

WHERE: U.S. Senate Swamp (located on the grass across the drive from the East Senate steps)*

*Rain location tba

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